

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 12-Sep-2016

MSc in Intensive Livestock Health and Production (Distance Learning), 2015/16

Lead examiner: Ms Carole Brizuela

Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Stephen Lister

The Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:

1.1 Course content

The PgC modules provide an excellent grounding in the following areas: (i) 4n77()-10(an)4(ex)-2c)-5(el)-4C Tf1 0 0 1 37.2

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

None

Response from college requested: NO

Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

There were very few assignments and exam scripts to review this year and they were of variable quality compared to previous years. Whilst some students are performing well there have been a number of assessments where marks achieved are borderline passes or borderline fails. Both external examiners have found that the marks being awarded (especially on exam scripts) appear over-generous. I cannot help but feel that the marking scheme (the common grading scheme) being generic to all levels of study is not discriminatory enough for Masters level. I have expanded on this in section 3.4

Response from college requested:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.5 In your view, are the procedures for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? (e.g. Briefing, Exam administration, marking arrangements, Board of Examiners, participation by External Examiners)

As usual the arrangements for reviewing papers (but please be aware external examiners are liable to be away during late July / early August) was very good and the provision of assessment material prior to attending the College was extremely useful in making the most of the time available prior to the CAB to review other assignments and exam scripts and discuss course and assessment matters.

Response from college requested: NO

3.6 Opinion on changes to the assessment procedures from previous years in which you have examined

n/a

Response from college requested: NO

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Some of the feedback on assignments and exam scripts was exemplary (of particular note Animal Health Economics, Applied Animal Nutrition, Genetics and Genomics, Current Trends in Food Systems) and allows the external examiner to understand where and why marks are awarded. Other modules had no feedback or comments provided. It would be good practice if all internal examiners could be encouraged to do the same.

Response from college requested: YES

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We continue to request feedback from all markers in line with RVC marking policy. Where this persists, we will speak directly to the marker(s) concerned.-

4.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction

No

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

I still have concerns about the use of a Common Grading Scheme to assess work from level 4 to level 7.

Response from college requested:

